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KIDDERMINSTER  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

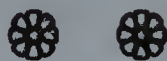
Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

FOR

1938



KIDDERMINSTER :  
HEPWORTH PRESS LIMITED.



Kidderminster  
Rural District Council

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1 9 3 8

# Kidderminster Rural District Council.

*Chairman :*

COUNCILLOR E. T. LANGFORD, J.P.

*Vice-Chairman :*

COUNCILLOR F. R. WELCH, C.C.

COUNCILLOR T. J. BEESTON.

„ W. DICKINSON.

„ H. DOOLITTLE.

„ J. EVANS.

„ A. E. HALFORD.

„ P. J. HINGLEY, J.P.

„ A. E. HOBSON.

„ F. C. OAKLEY

„ J. PAGE, M.B.E., J.P.

„ A. PARDOE.

„ W. A. POUND.

„ F. SMITH.

„ W. WALDRON.

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH. R. L. CORLETT, M.D., D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR. D. LLEWELLYN, M.S.I.A. (Resigned  
25-1-38).

R. S. PORTER, M.S.I.A. C.R.San.I.,  
(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector).  
(From 4th April, 1938).

# Kidderminster Rural District Council

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report for the year 1938, being my third Annual Report.

## SECTION A.

### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	36,790
Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population, mid 1938	...	...	...	...	...	7,667
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1938	...	...	...	...	...	2,790
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	£45,333
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£189

### Social Conditions.

In the main the inhabitants of the District are engaged in agricultural and kindred work, though a certain proportion are employed in the Carpet Industry at Kidderminster, and a number of males are employed at an Iron works in the District.

### Vital Statistics.

		Males.	Females.	Total
Live Births	Legitimate	65	56	121
	Illegitimate	3	4	7
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population				16.7
Birth Rate for 1937				13.8
,, ,, 1936				14.4
Birth Rate for England and Wales, 1938				15.7
		Males.	Females.	Total
Still Births	Legitimate	3	2	5
	Illegitimate	0	0	0
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) births				37.6
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) births 1937				53.0



				Males.	Females.	Total
Deaths	...	...	...	58	40	98
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	...	...	...	12.78
Adjusted Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	10.6

The adjusted Death Rate is obtained by multiplication of the Crude Death Rate by the Areal Comparability Factor 0.83 supplied by the Registrar-General.

Death Rate for England and Wales, 1937 ... 11.6

#### Deaths from Puerperal Causes

	Deaths.
Puerperal Sepsis	0
Other Puerperal Causes	0

#### Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	39.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births...			41.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			0.0

There were, as in 1937, five deaths of infants under one year of age, as there were 21 more births in 1938 than in 1937, this death rate shows a decline from 46.7 to 39.1.

Three of these five deaths occurred within 24 hours of birth.

Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales was 53 per 1,000 live births.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	6
Deaths from Measles (all ages)...	...	...	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	0

The total deaths registered were 98 as against 111 in 1937 and 99 in 1936.

### Causes of Death.

							M.	F.
1.	Typhoid Fever, etc.			...	...	...	—	—
2.	Measles			...	...	...	—	1
3.	Scarlet Fever			...	...	...	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough			...	...	...	—	—
5.	Diphtheria			...	...	...	—	—
6.	Influenza			...	...	...	1	—
7.	Encephalitis Lethargica			...	...	...	—	—
8.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever			...	...	...	—	—
9.	Respiratory Tuberculosis			...	...	...	4	2
10.	Other Tuberculosis			...	...	...	—	—
11.	Syphilis			...	...	...	—	—
12.	G.P.I., Tabes etc.			...	...	...	—	—
13.	Cancer			...	...	...	1	5
14.	Diabetes			...	...	...	1	1
15.	Cerebral Hæmorrhage etc.			...	...	...	1	2
16.	Heart Disease			...	...	...	17	8
17.	Aneurysm			...	...	...	—	—
18.	Other Circulatory Diseases			...	...	...	3	4
19.	Bronchitis			...	...	...	1	3
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)			...	...	...	5	3
21.	Other Respiratory Diseases			...	...	...	1	—
22.	Peptic Ulcer			...	...	...	—	—
23.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)			...	...	...	—	—
24.	Appendicitis			...	...	...	1	—
25.	Cirrhosis of Liver			...	...	...	—	—
26.	Other Diseases of the Liver...			...	...	...	1	—
27.	Other Digestive Diseases			...	...	...	1	1
28.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis			...	...	...	6	1
29.	Puerperal Sepsis			...	...	...	—	—
30.	Other Puerperal Causes			...	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.			...	...	...	1	2
32.	Senility			...	...	...	2	1
33.	Suicide			...	...	...	—	1
34.	Other Violence			...	...	...	3	1
35.	Other Defined Causes			...	...	...	7	4
36.	Causes ill-defined or unknown			...	...	...	1	—
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)						...	—	—
Smallpox						...	—	—
Poliomyelitis						...	—	—
Polioencephalitis						...	—	—
							58	40

### **Comments on Causes of Death.**

Apart from a death due to a congenital heart, there were no deaths from heart disease under the age of 50 years.

There were six deaths due to Cancer, as against 12 in 1937. The average age of death in the cancer cases was 73 years.

Of the total 98 deaths that occurred during the year, nineteen were of people aged eighty years and over.

### **Zymotic Diseases.**

There were two deaths from Zymotic Disease, namely Influenza 1, Measles 1.

### **SECTION B.**

#### **General Provision of Health Services in the Area.**

##### **Staff.**

Mr. D. Llewellyn resigned his appointment as Sanitary Inspector in January 1938. Mr. A. S. Northover, the Council's Surveyor, acted as Sanitary Inspector until Mr. R. S. Porter, who holds the Royal Sanitary Institute's Certificate as Inspector of Meat and other Foods was appointed in April. Mr. Porter was District Sanitary Inspector to the City of Nottingham, and prior to that had held appointments in Wolverhampton County Borough, and Kidderminster Borough.

##### **Laboratory Facilities.**

Examination of clinical material (sputum, swabs, etc.) water, milk and foodstuffs is done by the Worcestershire County Analyst.

##### **Ambulance Facilities.**

For Infectious Cases the North Worcestershire Joint Isolation Hospital Committee provide an ambulance which is kept at the Isolation Hospital, to deal with these cases. The service provided is satisfactory. For Non-Infectious cases an Ambulance Service is provided by the Kidderminster Corporation.

##### **Nursing.**

For both Maternity and general work, nurses in the employ of the District Nursing Associations render admirable service.

##### **Infant Welfare Work.**

There is a Voluntary Infant Welfare Centre held the 2nd and 4th Thursday each month at the Village Hall, Far Forest at 2 p.m.



A number of the mothers from Blakedown and the surrounding district attend the Hagley Infant Welfare Centre, which is held the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in each month at 2 p.m. This Welfare Centre is situated in the Bromsgrove Rural District. We much appreciate the kind action of the ladies who arrange to bring mothers and children in their private cars to the Centres.

### **Tuberculosis.**

This work is undertaken by the Worcestershire County Council who send patients requiring Sanatorium treatment to Knightwick, Hill Top (Bromsgrove), and Hayley Green. A Tuberculosis Dispensary is held every Thursday at 2 p.m. at the Kidderminster General Hospital, when Dr. Sidney Deaner attends.

### **Hospitals.**

Kidderminster General Hospital. This Hospital is situated in the Borough of Kidderminster, but is also used by the inhabitants of the Kidderminster Rural District.

### **Infectious Disease.**

Patients are admitted to Hayley Green Isolation Hospital. This Hospital is provided by the North Worcestershire Joint Hospital Committee.

## **SECTION C.**

### **Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**

#### **Water.**

The Council own approximately sixty miles of water pipes, and the water in the Rural Area is supplied by :—(1) The Council's borehole at Cookley. (2) The City of Birmingham Elan Aqueduct. The supply is satisfactory both in regard to quality and quantity.

During the year the following extensions have been made :—

1. Rock. To include Chapel Lane.
2. At Harvington to include the new Council houses.
3. At Trimpley an extension of several hundred yards.

At regular intervals throughout the year, the Sanitary Inspector submitted samples of water from the Council's borehole at Cookley for chemical and bacteriological examination by the County Analyst. Seven bacteriological examinations and the same number of chemical analyses were made. All the samples were satisfactory.

(One copy of each together with date).

**Report of County Analyst.**

Upon a sample of Borehole Water contained in a W. Qt. bottle. Sealed Marked Borehole, Cookley, K.R.D.C.2. Received from Mr. R. S. Porter, Sanitary Inspector of Land Oak House, Kidderminster on 26th August, 1938.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above sample chemically and bacteriologically, with the following results:—

**Physical Characters.** Clear, odourless.

Deposit, none.

**Chemical Examination.** (Results expressed in parts per 100,000).

Solids in Suspension (Dried at 100°C)	...	...	None
Solids in Solution (Dried at 100°C)	...	...	24
Solids in Solution After Ignition	...	...	20
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	...	...	3.6
Hardness—Permanent	...	...	9.0
Hardness—Temporary	...	...	7.0
Hardness—Total	...	...	16.0
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	0.0004
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	0.0004
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	...	...	Trace.
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	...	...	None.
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C	...	...	None.
Toxic	...	...	None detected.

**Note.**—To convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon multiply by 0.7.

**Bacteriological Examination.**

Number of colonies developing upon agar:—

(a) In two days at 37°C	...	...	4 per one m.l.
(b) In three days at 22°C	...	...	8 per one m.l.
Coli-ærogenes (presumptive coli) count	...	...	Nil per 100 m.l.
B. Typhosus	...	...	Nil. per 200 m.l.
Cl. Welchii	...	...	Nil. per 250 m.l.
Streptococci	...	...	Not detected.
Opinion—The sample is fit for drinking.			

Signed,

H. E. MONK,

County Analyst and Bacteriologist.

### Report of County Analyst.

Upon a sample of Borehole Water contained in a W. Qt. bottle un-Sealed Marked 1. Direct from Council's Borehole at Cookley. Received from Mr. R. S. Porter, Sanitary Inspector, of Land Oak House, Kidderminster on 2nd May, 1938.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above sample Chemically and bacteriologically, with the following results:—

**Physical Characters.**—Slightly opalescent, odourless.

Deposit, slight brown.

### Chemical Examination.

(Results expressed in parts per 100,000).

Solids in Suspension (Dried at 100°C)	...	...	Trace
Solids in Solution (Dried at 100°C)	...	...	24.
Solids in Solution (After Ignition)	...	...	19
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	...	...	3.5
Hardness—Permanent	...	...	9.0
Hardness—Temporary	...	...	5.0
Hardness—Total	...	...	14.0
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	0.0006
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	0.0008
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	...	...	Trace
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	...	...	None
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C	...	...	0.006
Toxic	...	...	None detected

**Note.**—To convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon multiply by 0.7.

### Bacteriological Examination.

Number of colonies developing upon agar:—

(a) In two days at 37°C	...	...	5 per one m.l.
(b) In three days at 22°C	...	...	40 per one m.l.
Coli-ærogenes (presumptive coli) count	...	Nil.	per 100 m.l.
B. Typhosus	...	...	Nil. per 200 m.l.
Cl. Welchii	...	...	Nil. per 250 m.l.
Streptococci	...	...	Not detected

Opinion—The sample is fit for drinking.

Signed,

H. E. MONK,

County Analyst and Bacteriologist.



### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

The question of a sewerage scheme for the villages of Cookley and Wolverley is still under consideration, and whilst I know the cost of sewerage schemes will bear heavily on the financial resources of the Rural District I am of the opinion that this matter should be pressed forward without delay. I am also of the opinion that a sewerage scheme is necessary for the village of Chaddesley Corbett.

### **Rivers and Streams.**

I know of no serious pollution to rivers and streams in the Rural District.

### **Closet Accommodation.**

Until there are sewerage schemes for Cookley, Wolverley and Chaddesley Corbett the conversion from a conservancy system to a water carriage one is not practicable.

### **Public Cleansing.**

The scavenging is carried out by contract and is dealt with by tipping. The Sanitary Inspector has devoted much time and thought to this question. The residents can assist by burning as much of their refuse as is combustible. (See Sanitary Inspector's Report).

### **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

### **Camping Sites.**

See Sanitary Inspector's report.

The only time when we have any considerable numbers of campers in our District is during the August Bank Holiday week, and during this time the camps are visited.

### **Smoke Abatement.**

No smoke nuisance arose during the year.

### **Swimming Baths and Pools.**

There are no Public Swimming Baths in the District. There are however two privately owned Swimming Pools open to the Public. Conditions during the year were satisfactory in both.

### **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

See Sanitary Inspector's report.



## Schools.

The Sanitary condition and water supply of the schools are satisfactory. The majority of the schools are connected with the Council's water supply. There are twelve schools in the Rural District, and the number of scholars on the School Registers in December was 968. In addition there are two Private Boarding Schools.

Stone School was closed from January the 11th until January the 22nd owing to Chicken Pox. There were no other closures. It was not necessary to issue any certificates to cover decreased attendances below 60%. At one school, during the Autumn term, the school attendance was adversely affected owing to Mumps.

When a case occurs of a notifiable infectious disease in a house where are school children, the school or schools which these children attend, are notified and a request is made for the scholars to be excluded from school for a specified time. Diphtheria contacts have nose and throat swabs taken prior to resuming School.

## SECTION D.—HOUSING.

Houses erected by :—

(a) Local Authority	...	...	...	...	34
(b) Private enterprise or subsidy	...	...	...	...	52
					<hr/>
	Total	...	...	...	86
					<hr/>

The Council have made excellent progress during the year in the erection of houses. Eight, four-bedroomed houses and ten, three-bedroomed houses were erected at Cookley. Four, four-bedroomed houses and six, three-bedroomed houses were erected at Chaddesley Corbett and one, four-bedroomed and five, three-bedroomed at Harvington. A further one, four-bedroomed and three, three-bedroomed will be completed at Harvington early in 1939.

## HOUSING.

### A.—STATISTICS.

#### 1.—Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwellings-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	51
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	76

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ..	26
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	34
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	2
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation ...	20

**2.—Remedy of defects during the year without the Service of Formal Notices :—**

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	20
--	----

**3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—**

**A.—Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owner ... ..	Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil.

**B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners ... ..	Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of the owners ...	Nil.

**C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	Nil.
--	------

- |  |     |     |     |     |      |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil. |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- |   |     |      |
|---|-----|------|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made  | ... | 2    |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... | Nil. |

4.—**Housing Act, 1936 Part IV.—Overcrowding.**

- |  |     |     |     |     |      |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of of the year  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4    |
| (2) Number of families dwelling therein  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4    |
| (3) Number of persons dwelling therein   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23   |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year   | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil. |
| (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17   |
| (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 123  |
| (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil. |

**SECTION E,**

**Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

(a) Milk Supply.

(b) Meat and other foods.

The Sanitary Inspector's Report deals with these matters.

The Food and Drugs Acts are administered by the County Council.

**SECTION F.**

**Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases: Scarlet Fever.**

There were eight cases of Scarlet Fever as against twenty-one in 1937. Three were admitted to hospital. The cases were of a mild type.



## **Diphtheria.**

Three cases were notified during the year, in 1937 there were thirty-one. It was only necessary to admit one of these three cases to the Isolation Hospital. There were no deaths from Diphtheria. The comparatively large number of cases in 1937 was due to an epidemic at Cookley, where there were twenty five cases. I attribute the stamping out of Diphtheria in this village to three factors.

1. The taking of nose and throat swabs of the immediate home and school contacts.
2. The fact that the Medical Practitioners gave the home contacts a protective injection of Diphtheria antitoxin.
3. Diphtheria Immunization.

I regard factors 1 and 2 as being the important ones in gaining control over this epidemic, whilst I feel that immunization may well have played a big part in accounting for the present freedom of the village from Diphtheria. In a Rural District like this, I do feel that selective swabbing of the school children is of definite value during a Diphtheria epidemic mainly confined to school children. I think however that not only should attention be paid to the immediate class contacts, but that any child in the school with sore nostrils, sore throat or otorrhoea should have the necessary swabs taken. In the case of a child with sore nostrils I think it is advisable to have a second swab taken if the first is negative, because nasal carriers seem at times to be so persistent and alternate between positive and negative swabs for so long. Of course I have only been dealing with very small numbers, but I was interested to note that by the time I had received two consecutive negative nasal swabs the nasal condition had either healed, or healing was practically complete.

## **General.**

Diphtheria antitoxin is provided free to Medical Practitioners by the Rural District Council.

## **Immunization against Diphtheria.**

Immunization against Diphtheria is provided free by the Rural District Council. I am grateful to Dr. Wyndham Parker for allowing the County Nurses to help us, Nurse O'Brien was the one who usually assisted, and I wish to thank her and the Head Teachers for their willing co-operation and help. I consider the response on the part of the parents has been excellent. Three injections of T.A.M., were used at fortnightly intervals, the dose given each time was 1 c.c. During the year, 404 children received the complete treatment of the 418 for whom consents were ob-



tained. Seven of the fourteen who did not receive the full treatment either transferred to another district or left school before they had the opportunity of finishing treatment. The immunization in each case, was done on school premises. Forty-one of the children immunized were under 5 years of age, though actually only twenty-one of these children were not attending school. The number of pre-school children immunized is small, but the district is rather scattered, and it is difficult for the parents to bring young children a long way.

School	No. of School children immunised.	No. of Pre-School children immunised.	Total No. immunised.
Chaddesley Corbett	71	1.	72
Hill Pool ...	10	—	10
Cookley ...	101	12.	113
Wolverley ...	89	3	92
Blakedown ...	66	5	71
Churchill ...	46	—	46
	383	21.	404

There are approximately 607 children attending these schools, so that it means about 63% of these children have been immunised.

The notifiable infectious diseases are set out in the following table.

Disease	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	8	3	None
Diphtheria	3	1	None
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	None
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	None	None	None
Pneumonia	3	None	1
Erysipelas	1	None	None
Ophthalmia			
Neonatorum	None	None	None

Notifiable Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis).  
during the year 1938.

Disease.	AGE IN YEARS.											Total No. of Cases
	Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	
Scarlet Fever				1		6		1				8
Diphtheria ...						1	2					3
Puerperal Pyrexia ...									2			2
Pneumonia ...	1					1				1		3
Erysipelas ...											1	1
	1			1		8	2	1	2	1	1	17

### Prevention of Blindness.

The Rural District Council have not taken any action under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

### Tuberculosis.

Nine cases were notified during the year, compared to six in 1937.

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—								
1—								
5—				1				
15—	2	2	1		1	1		
25—		1			1	1		
35—					1			
45—								
55—		1						
65—		1						
and up- wards					1			
	2	5	1	1	4	2	—	—

Tuberculosis (all forms) Notification Rate per 1,000 of population.

Average		Average		
1926—1930	1931	1932—36	1937	1938
1.8	1.7	1.08	0.77 <del>0.77</del>	1.2

Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 of population.

Average		Average.		
1926—1930	1931	1932—36	1937	1938
0.9	1.1	0.53	0.52	0.8

There were no non-notified Tuberculosis deaths. It was not necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. L. CORLETT,

*Medical Officer of Health.*





Kidderminster  
Rural District Council

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

FOR

1938

## ANNUAL REPORT. OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in submitting my First Annual Report on the Sanitary Administration within the Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1938.

The Council are aware that on taking up my appointment on 4th April, 1938 I found that the complete re-organisation of the Department was necessary, and instructions were given for this to be carried out. This re-organisation has entailed a considerable amount of Clerical work and consequent reduction of time available for inspections.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.

Number of visits made to premises re cases of infectious disease and disinfection	...	...	...	...	21
Number of rooms disinfected	...	...	...		12
Number of library books disinfected	...	...	...		4
Number of library books destroyed	...	...	...		2

Disinfection of premises and articles which have been exposed to infection is carried out by means of disinfectant fluid and formaldehyde lamps.

### ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

The Rural District appears to be fortunate in as much as there is no serious infestation of houses in the District.

One case only has been dealt with and the methods adopted are spraying with Zaldecide after arrangements have been made to have mouldings of doors and windows and skirting boards removed prior and during disinfection.

In the case of families moving into Council Houses an examination of their belongings is made prior to removal.

## **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

### **FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.**

The administration of the above Acts is carried out by the Worcestershire County Council.

Six samples were taken during 1938, all were found to be genuine.

### **COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.**

Cowkeepers registered	...	...	...	...	...	121
Cowsheds registered	...	...	...	...	...	148
Producers (including Graded Milks) registered	...	...	...	...	...	121
Retail Purveyors	...	...	...	...	...	11
Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	108
Contraventions	...	...	...	...	...	22
Informal Notices	...	...	...	...	...	3
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.

### **CONTRAVENTIONS REMEDIED AND IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED.**

Cowsheds reconditioned	...	...	...	...	...	8
Yards filled up and paved	...	...	...	...	...	6
Improvements to dairies	...	...	...	...	...	6
Limewashing and cleansing	...	...	...	...	...	19
Removal of manure	...	...	...	...	...	3
Defective drainage	...	...	...	...	...	7
New dairies provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
New drainage provided	...	...	...	...	...	3
Water laid on	...	...	...	...	...	2

The cowsheds and dairies of the Kidderminster District are, on the whole, well constructed and the producers are keen to take advantage of the fact to produce, wholesome milk.

Credit is due to the farmers, producers and their employees for the manner in which they co-operate with your Officers, as any contraventions which are found are, in most cases, remedied without delay after complaint has been made.

### **MILK DESIGNATIONS ORDERS 1936 and 1938.**

#### **List of licensed Producers etc., in the District.**

##### **Tuberculin Tested Milk.**

(a) Combined production and bottling licenses	...	...	...	...	1
(b) Production Licence	...	...	...	...	Nil.

**Accredited Milk.**

(a) Combined production and bottling licences	...	...	...	...	5
(b) Production licences	...	...	...	...	8

With reference to the above figures the interesting fact is that the Kidderminster Rural District stands very low in the number of Milk Producers holding Graded Licences issued by the County Council. In fact, amongst the Rural Districts of the County, it is second from the bottom.

In view of the amount of work done with regard to Milk Production in the past, this is unfortunate, and I hope the position will be improved so as to bring the District to a higher position in the list.

Sampling under these orders is carried out by the County Council.

**Report on Samples.****Accredited.**

Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	44
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	3
Total						<hr/> 47 <hr/>

**Tuberculin Tested.**

Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	6
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Total						<hr/> 6 <hr/>

**MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.****Slaughterhouses.**

Registered Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	4
Licensed Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	3
Inspections	...	...	...	...	141

**Contraventions remedied.**

Limewashing	...	...	...	...	3
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The following table shows the number of animals killed at the Slaughterhouses and the number of carcasses inspected and condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ...	315	Nil.	39	2264	266
Number Inspected ...	117	Nil.	12	1318	139
All diseases except Tuberculosis ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	3	Nil.
Whole carcasses condemned ...					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	5	Nil.	Nil.	3	Nil.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	4.27%	Nil.	Nil.	.22%	Nil.
Tuberculosis only Whole carcasses condemned ...	Nil.	Nil.	1	Nil.	Nil.
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	Nil.	Nil.	8.33%	Nil.	2.87%

The following table gives a classified list of the quantities of :—

**MEAT SURRENDERED AT THE SLAUGHTERHOUSES  
DURING 1938.**

Animals affected	Tuberculosis	Weight in lbs.	Animals affected	Tuberculosis	Weight in lbs.
Cattle	Nil.	Nil.	Pigs	Heads (4)	61
Calves	Carcase and organs of one animal	90			
	Total	90		Total	61
	Other Diseases or Injuries.			Other Diseases or Injuries.	
Cattle	Internal Organs of one animal	80		Nil.	Nil.
	Total	80			
Sheep	3 Carcases and Organs	230			
	Total	230		Total	Nil.

The total amount of meat surrendered at the Slaughterhouses was 461 lbs.

The work of Meat Inspection is made very difficult because of the considerable distances between slaughterhouses. I find it impossible to inspect as many carcasses as I should like, but the District is fortunate in the fact that the butchers are tradesmen of the best type who purchase only the very best animals. The fact that not a single cow was killed during 1938 bears out this statement. I should like to express my thanks to them for the splendid way in which they co-operate with your Officers, and their readiness to report any abnormal condition found in any animal slaughtered for human consumption.

With regard to the occasional slaughter of animals by persons other than butchers, I would call attention to the fact that, under the Public Health Meat Regulations, 1924, not less than 3 hours notice must be given to the Public Health Department before slaughtering.

It is an established custom in the District for farmers and cottagers to slaughter pigs for sale among relations and friends particularly at Christmas.

Whilst I do not wish to restrict, in any way, this custom, it is my duty to enforce the Public Health Meat Regulation 1924. and in future I intend to insist on the requisite notification.

### **SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT 1933.**

Number of unexpired licenses in force	...	...	34
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It has been necessary during the year to call attention to the fact that the Council had passed a resolution including sheep in the provision with regard to humane slaughter.

I am pleased to be able to report that the provisions of the Act are now being observed to the full.

### **BAKEHOUSES.**

Number on register December 1938	...	...	7
Inspections	...	...	8
Informal Notices served	...	...	Nil.
Statutory Notices served	...	...	Nil.

### **Contraventions remedied.**

Limewashing	...	...	3
Dirty floors	...	...	2

### **PETROLEUM ACTS.**

Number of Premises licensed for Petroleum :—

January, 1938	...	...	30
December, 1938	...	...	30
Number of Premises licensed for Carbide of Calcium			4
Number of Visits	...	...	15
Total storage capacity for Petrol is	29,300	gallons	
Total storage capacity for Carbide is	8,000	lbs.	

All new underground tanks are tested at 5lbs. air pressure before approval.

The total amount received from Petroleum and Carbide Licenses during the year was £20. 5s. 0d.



### INSPECTION OF CANAL BOATS.

Number of Boats inspected during 1938	...	...	8
Number of Boats conforming to the Acts and Regulations	Nil.		
Number of Boats infringing the Acts and Regulations	8		
Total number for which the cabins were registered	...	Nil.	
Total number occupying the cabins	...	...	16

#### Details of occupants :—

Male adults	...	...	...	...	16
Female adults	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Children of school age	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Children under school age	...	...	...	...	Nil.

The 8 boats inspected were found to be occupied in each case by two men although not registered.

This was reported to the appropriate Registration Authority who immediately took the matter up with the owners.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

#### House refuse collection and disposal.

The house refuse collection in the Kidderminster Rural District is carried out by means of a 2 ton covered lorry and two men, supplied by a local contractor.

On taking up my duties in April 1938 I found that the system was far from satisfactory and I have been endeavouring to bring this system up to the standard sought by your Council, further reorganisation will be necessary before this standard is attained.

Collection is made fortnightly from the majority of houses in the District and the refuse is disposed of by tipping. Although considerable difficulty has arisen from the shortage of land available for such tipping, it is expected that this shortage will be remedied in the near future.

The following is a numerical summary of the work carried out between 1st April and 31st December, 1938.

#### Collection.

Total number of loads removed	...	...	522
Estimated weight	...	...	993 tons



**Disposal.**

Tipped at Churchill	...	...	...	262
„ „ Chaddesley	...	...	...	140
„ „ Heightington	...	...	...	90
„ „ Shatterford*	...	...	...	30*
Total ...				<hr/> 522 <hr/>

\*Tipping commenced October 1938.

**Night Soil Collection.**

A weekly collection of night soil is made from Chaddesley Corbett village.

The work is done by a local contractor and the system is much appreciated by the inhabitants of the village.

Number of Pail Closets emptied per week	...	...	77
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**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**

The closest co-operation is maintained between your Surveyor, Mr. A. S. Northover, and myself in improving drainage systems throughout the District, and a considerable number were brought up to satisfactory standards.

This work is getting more difficult as time goes on, owing to the fact that the Council's water schemes are rapidly covering the whole of the Rural District. The provision of a water supply automatically means an increase of sewage, and the absence of systems of sewerage means the overtaking of the existing drainage systems. This is felt most acutely in the villages of Wolverley, Cookley and Chaddesley Corbett. and I would impress on the Council the urgent necessity of pressing forward with the proposed Sewerage Schemes for these villages.

**Camping Sites.**

Number of large sites which were used for camping purposes (approximately)	...	...	...	15
Number of sites in respect of which licenses have been issued under section 269 of the Public Health Acts 1936	...	...	...	Nil.
Estimated number of campers resident in the area at any one time during the summer 1938	...	...	...	3000
Inspections made	...	...	...	46

After a tour of inspection of the camping sites during the first week in August, the Housing Committee decided that, as they had found that the sites were well controlled and that conditions with regard to overcrowding, sanitary accommodation and water supply etc., were most satisfactory, it was not necessary to consider the question of the issue of licenses under section 269 of the Public Health Acts, 1936.

### **WATER SUPPLY.**

#### **General.**

Number of samples submitted for analysis	...	...	40
Number of samples found to be unfit or unsuitable			26
Number of samples found to be fit	...	...	14

### **SPECIAL REPORT.**

#### **Pound Green, Upper Arley.**

The Council having under consideration the provision of a water supply to Pound Green, a special report was prepared during May 1938. Samples were submitted for analysis from the wells in the district and resulted as follows :—

Number of samples submitted	...	...	...	21
Number of samples found to be unfit or unsuitable	...			14
Number of samples found to be fit	...	...	...	7

On considering this report the Council decided to provide a supply of water to the district from Button Oak to the Bannut Tree Farm and Nib Green. Further consideration is to be given to the extension of the supply as far as the Harbour Inn.

#### **Council's Borehole, Cookley.**

Number of samples submitted for Bacteriological Examination	...	...	...	...	6
Number of samples found to be of good quality and fit for drinking	...	...	...	...	6

The water from the Borehole shows little variation in physical character and chemical composition. For specimen of Analyst's Report see Medical Officer of Health's Report.

### **COMPLAINTS.**

Number of Complaints received	...	...	...	43
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#### **Summary of Complaints.**

Housing defects	...	...	...	...	6
Defective and choked drainage			...	...	13
Prevalence of Rats	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	21

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA, 1938.

Particulars of Visits and Inspections are as follows :—

Number of Premises inspected	...	...	...	721
Bakehouses	...	...	...	8
Canal Boats...	...	...	...	8
Caravans and Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	46
Carbide Stores	...	...	...	5
Cowsheds	...	...	...	108
Dairies	...	...	...	110
Fried Fish Premises	...	...	...	3
Ice Cream	...	...	...	3
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	21
Overcrowding	...	...	...	43
Petrol Stores	...	...	...	24
Premises where animals are kept	...	...	...	16
Schools	...	...	...	6
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	141
Water-courses	...	...	...	6
Water Supply	...	...	...	82
Workshops	...	...	...	5
Provision of Dustbins	...	...	...	15
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	71

## LETTERS AND NOTICES ISSUED, ETC.

Number of Letters and Informal Notices	...	...	411
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	Nil.
Number of Nuisances dealt with	...	...	76

## SANITARY WORK.

### Interior of Houses.

Dirty houses improved and cleansed by tenants	...	2
Verminous houses dealt with	...	1

### Yards and Outbuildings.

Rainwater cisterns and pumps repaired or cleansed	...	3
Dirty yards and W.C's cleansed by tenants	...	9
Offensive accumulations removed from yards, etc.	...	2



**Drainage.**

Yard gullies cleansed by tenants	...	...	...	3
Drains opened and cleansed from obstruction			...	6
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	7
New drains provided	...	...	...	8
Glazed stone ware gullies provided to drains			...	2
New sink waste pipes provided, others repaired			...	6
Inspection chambers provided to drains	...		...	2
Overflowing cesspools cleansed and repaired			...	11
Inspection chambers repaired and provided with new air-tight covers	...	...	...	3
Glazed sinks provided	...	...	...	4
Cesspools abolished	...	...	...	5

**Water Closets.**

New water closets erected	...	...	...	3
Additional W.C's provided	...	...	...	1
Foul and obstructed W.C's cleansed			...	2
New W.C. cisterns provided, others repaired			...	3
Water closets repaired	...	...	...	3
Water closets provided with new basins and traps			...	1
Defective water supply to W.C's remedied (burst water pipes, defective ball valves, etc.)		...	...	5

**Conversions.**

Conversion of Privies to W.C's	...	...	...	2
Conversion of Pail Closets to W.C's	...	...	...	7

**Urinals.**

Urinals cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	3
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**Privies and Pail Closets.**

New pans provided to pail closets	...	...	...	5
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**Ashpits and Dustbins.**

Houses provided with new sanitary dustbins			...	15
Insanitary condition of dustbins cleansed by tenants				9
Ashpits abolished	...	...	...	3

**Various.**

Nuisances from burning of refuse	...	...	...	1
Nuisances from improper keeping of animals			...	3
Accumulation of manure and refuse removed			...	9
Samples of well water submitted to the County Analyst for Chemical examination	...	...	...	46



Houses provided with Council Water in place of Polluted							
Wells	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Water courses cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous nuisances dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Smoke observations	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Nuisances on highways	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

In conclusion Gentlemen may I express my thanks for the interest and support given me by the whole of the Council during the year.

I would also express my appreciation of the willing co-operation which I have received from The Clerk, Mr. W. Parkin, The Surveyor, Mr. A. S. Northover, and the whole of the Council's Staff.

I am Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. S. PORTER,

*Sanitary Inspector.*





